

A  
LETTER  
FROM THE  
ASSEMBLY  
OF DIVINES IN  
ENGLAND,

AND  
THE COMMISSIONERS  
of the Church of SCOTLAND.

Written, and sent by Order of the honorable  
House of Commons assembled in Parlia-  
ment, to the *Belgicke, French, Hel-  
vetian*, and other Reformed  
CHURCHES.

*Translated into English, and now published with  
the severall Inscriptions to those Churches.*

By Order of the said House.

---

L O N D O N,

Printed by *Richard Cotes*, for *Ralph Smith*,  
and are to be sold at his Shop, at the signe  
of the Bible in *Cornhill*, neere the  
*Royall Exchange*, 1644.

81  
**I**T is this day Ordered by the Commons House of Parliament,  
That the Assembly of Divines bee moved to write Letters  
unto some Divines or Churches of Zealand and Holland,  
and to the Protestant Churches in France, Switzerland and o-  
ther Reformed Churches, to informe them against the great  
Artifices and Disguises of his Majesties Agents in these parts,  
of the true state of our affaires, and of the constant imployment  
of Irish Popish Rebels, and other Papists to be Governours, Com-  
manders and Souldiers, the many evidences of their intentions  
to introduce Popery, their indeavour to hinder the Reformati-  
on here intended, and condemning other Protestant Churches,  
as unsound, because not Prelaticall. And that the Scots Com-  
missioners be desired to joyn therein: And likewise that the  
Committees of the Lords and Commons, and of the Divines  
may advise with the Scots Commissioners in the Premises.

H. Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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**I**T is this day ordered by the Commons House of Parliament,  
That the Letter from the Assembly of Divines to the Refor-  
med Churches beyond Seas shall be printed in Latin and  
English, with the the Severall Inscriptions to the Particular  
severall Churches, and that Mr. Elden and Mr. Rous doe  
acquaint the Assembly with this Order.

H. Elsyng Cler. Parl. D. Com.

A  
LETTER FROM THE  
ASSEMBLIE OF DIVINES IN  
*England, and the Commissioners of the Church  
of SCOTLAND, to the Belgicke French, Hel-  
vetian, and other reformed Churches.*

Right reverend and dearly beloved  
in our Lord Jesus Christ.



E the Assembly of Divines and others, called and conveened by the Authoritie of both Houses of Parliament of *England*, vvith the Commissioners sent from the Generall Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, doe heartily salute you in the Lord. Wee doubt not but the sad reports of the miseries under which the Church and Kingdome of *England* do bleed, and vvhere-with vve are all readie to be swallowed up, (the cup which the righteous Lord hath given us to drink) is long since come to your ears. And it is probable that the same instruments of Sathan and Antichrist, have endeavoured by their emissaries to present us as blacke as may be among your selves; vvho by falsehood lies endeavour every vvhere to put faire glosses upon their own bloody designs, & to reproach our strugglings after a more thorow Reformation of Religion in the Church of *England*, according to the vvord of God, and our just defence of our lives, liberties, and Religion, against their cruell and unjust violences. And vve sometimes doubt vvwhether vvee have not been vvanting to our own innocency and your satisfaction, in being thus long silent, from giving you a faithfull, though



forrowfull, relation of the state vvherein vve stand. But pardon's (*deare Brethren*) if this cup of trembling, wherevwith our spirits have beene filled to amazement, and our wrestlings vwith extreame difficulties ever since our meeing, have hindred us from that vvhich vve long since knew to be our duty. And give us leave now a little to ease our grief, by powring our hearts into your bosomes, vvhile we relate the desolation made by an Antichristian faction, who amongst us have still beene hindring the vvorke of reformation, and vwith all introducing and cherishing of Popery; and are now arrived at that strength, and have prevailed so farre against us, that if the Lord, vvhose judgements are unsearchable, and vvhose tender mercies are innumerable, doe not speedily helpe us, vve shall even altogether be laid waste by them.

How great a hand this treacherous and bloody generation amongst us, have long had in the miseries of other reformed Churches, in the destruction of the *Palatinate*; and in the betraying & losse of *Rochell*, and how, by seeming overtures of Ambassies and Treaties for their reliefe, they have fomented, continued, and encrased their calamities; are so fully known by you all, and miserably felt by some of your selves, that we need not speak any thing of them. And we suppose their inveterate harred *against you all*, is sufficiently manifested, in that multitudes of them have refused to acknowledge any of you for Churches of Christ, *because you are not Prelaticall*, and thereby (as they conceive) vvant a lawfull Vocation of Ministers. Sure vve are, that amongst our selves in all these three Kingdomes, they have prevailed so far in advancing Poperie, and depressing Religion, that it vwould require a Volume, rather than a Letter, to relate all the particulars. Scarce one thing can be thought upon, which may be supposed to be an argument of any intent set up popery, and even extirpate the true reformed Religion, but we could give  
you



you abundant instances, that they have not onely attempted, but in great measure prevailed for the putting thereof in execution. All the good and just Lawes of this Kingdome against papists, (concerning their lives, liberties, and goods) suspended; Judges prohibited to proceed against condemned Priests, & ever Jesuites set free: Houses of superstition in *Ireland* and *England* set up, & not discountenanced: (beside the seldome or never questioned transportation of many young persons, to Seminaries in foraine parts) Notorious papists, contrary to known Laws permitted to come to Court, to reside there, & enjoy the favour & preferment of it: Multitudes of them released from legall penalties for time past, and time come: Prosecuters of them checked and discountenanced, Agents sent from hence into *Italy*; Nuntioes and Agents from *Rome* received and treated with; such as warped that way, cherished and advanced; The most zealous Ministers and professours of Religion bitterly persecuted. And all these things so apparant, that abundance of popishly affected Prelates and Ministers adventured in every part of the Kingdome publickly to preach and leaven their people with almost all points of popery, (except the Supremacy) and to introduce abundance of corrupt innovations in the worship of God, compelling the people to yeeld conformity to them, with persecuting such as would not. Insomuch as many who looked at Religion only for outward advantage, found it best for their gaine and safety to turne papists: And many godly Ministers, who would publish a book purposely set forth to allow such sports on the Lords day, which the reformed Churches thinke unlawfull at any time; or who would not conform themselves to their other superstitions, have had their mouths stopped, & many thousands of their people with them compelled to seeke for refuge amongst your selves, or in remote parts of the world.

Yea,

Yea, so farre they had advanced in their presumption, as to impose upon the vvhole Kingdome of Scotland, a new popish book of Service, Rites, and Ceremonies, and a book of Canons: To which when the pietie and zeale of that nation vvhould not submit, they prevailed ( alas ) with his Majestie to proclaime them Rebels and Traitors, and to raise a formidable army against them, to which *all the Papists*, and popishly affected did professedly contribute their best assistance. And certainly had not the Lord by his blessing upon the *Scotish* Army, by the manifestation and acknowledgement of the wrongs done them, by the calling of this Parliament, and their godly care to cleare the innocency of their Brethren, and by the Treatie of Peace concluded betwixt the two Kingdomes, prevented it, the two Nations long since through the treachery and rage of these brutish men, had beene embrewing their hands in each others blood.

But though, through the goodnesse of God, and his blessing upon the publicke Councels and proceedings of both Nations of *England*, and *Scotland* they were more closely mutually conjoynd, and the Lord had raised up such a spirit throughout this whole Kingdome to mourne after the Lord, to lament our backslidings, and to desire a perfect Reformation, and had so inclined the hearts of the honourable Senators conveened in Parliament, to repaire the House of the Lord among us, that vve verily hoped our winter to bee past, and the time of our refreshing and healing to bee come yet: Alas we finde it to be cleane otherwise: Our God who before was a *moth* and *rottenesse*, is now turned unto a *Lyon* to us. Wee know our sins have deserved all; and if we all dye and perish, yet the Lord is righteous, to his hand we submit, and to him alone we desire to look for healing: Howbeit the instruments of these new miseries are the same

Antichristian faction, Who have beene so farre from being discouraged, or giving over their former designe by their want of successe in *Scotland*, or in beholding the fixed resolution of the Parliament here for Reformation, that their rage and diligence therein is more increased since the beginning of the Parliament, then at any time before. And indeed have more prevailed; both by stirring up a bloody Rebellion in *Ireland*, wherein ( as the Papists themselves boast ) they have destroyed above a hundred thousand Protestants in one Province, within a few moneths: And in *England*, by alienating the heart of his Majesty from his Parliament, which had begun to call many of them to account for their former mischiefs. And (after an attempt to surprize some Members of both Houses in an hostile manner) prevailing with his Majesty to with-draw himselfe from the Parliament, and to raise an Army which at first, pretended onely to bee made up of Protestants: But the Papists knew their intents, who both here and beyond the Seas, had frequent prayers for the good successe of this great work intended in *England*, for the advencing of the Catholick Cause; and spared not in *England* to boast, that they were not to appeare untill many Protestants were ingaged so farre, that they might not start backe, and then they were to own it, which accordingly is come to passe: For when once many seeming protestants were ingaged upon pretence of the Kings Prerogative, and Priviledges of Parliament, and Protestant Religion, (which protestants yet for the most part were the same who before the beginning of these stirres had been by the publick Judicatory of the Kingdome, impeached of Treason, Oppression, and other high crimes and misdemeanors: and other who knew themselves guilty thereof: and other corrupt parties of the Clergy and their adherents) presently the papists (who before were spared from all plunder



der and violence where ever the Kings Forces came, though many Protestants, who even held not for the Parliament, were rised) were armed by Commission from the King, and promise of repayment for their Arms, if they were lost; Many great Papists being put into places of Command in severall parts of the kingdome; and the body of all the Papists joyning with all their might, and professing and exercising their Religion even by publike Masses in divers parts of the Realme: And thus assisted with ammunition, Men and Money, from other parts (deluded by their faire glosses and and pretences) they go up and down plunder, and murder, spoile all such as adhere to the Parliament and cause of Religion.

And although, when the Parliament saw that these wicked instruments prevailed with the King, to raise force to be protected from the justice of the Laws (which the Parliament went about to inflict upon them for their former Treasons and other high crimes) and to accomplish their former designs, they indeavoured to secure the Forts and Navy & provide meanes for the defence of themselves, and of Laws, Liberties, and Religion (all which these men in devoured to destroy;) Yet such hath been their cunning, by false glosses, to hide their own intention, and to seduce others, Or rather, such is the righteous judgement of our now angry God, for our abuse of our long peace that wee have not yet been able by Supplications, Petitions, and Remonstrances, to recover his Majesty out of their hands: or to bring these men to deserved punishments; but the sword rageth almost in every corner of this wofull land.

And, to make up our misery to the full, they have now at last prevailed with his Majesty so farre to own the bloody Rebels in *Ireland*, as not onely to call them his *Roman-Catholic Subjects now in Armes*, &c. but even to grant them  
a Cessa-

a Cessation for a yeare (when they were brought into great extremity) and to hold what they have gotten, liberty to strengthen themselves, with Men, Money, Armes, Ammunition from any place, freedom to send or come to his Majesty: and thereby bee not onely inabled to destroy the remnant of the protestants there, but to come over hither (as many of them are already) to act the same butcheries upon us, as they have hitherto exercised upon our miserable and distressed Brethren among themselves.

In these deplorable calamities are wee involved: and in the midst of these troublesome times, have the honorable Houses of Parliament, called this Assembly, to give them our best Counsell for the Reformation of the Church, for the purging and preserving of Religion: and require us to make Gods Word only our Rule, and to indeavour the nearest conformity to the best Reformed Churches, and uniformity in all the Churches of the three Kingdomes. And in this work wee are now exercised, though the enemy hath stirred up the heart of our deare and dread Sovereigne against us also: Yet through the good hand of God upon us we have made some comfortable beginnings: The work is his, who commands us not to despise the day of small things.

Thus (Reverend and Deare Brethren) we have given you the face, or rather the shadow, (for what words are able to expresse the face?) of our miserable condition in *England*: Our civill Liberties in danger to be lost, our goods spoiled, our houses plundered, our blood powred out in every corner: (things though otherwise very precious to us we omit to mention.) If our God will lay our bodies as the ground, and as the dust under their fecte; the will of the Lord bee done: Might our blood be a sacrifice to ransom the rest of the Saints of Christ from Antichristian fury, most gladly would we offer it upon this service. But that which breaks

our hearts is, the danger we behold the Protestant Religion, and all the reformed Churches in at this time. Wee know their rage is insatiable, and will not be quenched with our blood: Their furie is kindled against us, not as we are sinfull men, but as men ingaged in the defence of the true Religion, and panting after a right Reformation: And if once the Lord deliver us as a prey into their teeth, Oh the darknesse and horror, the bondage, slavery, and persecution, which all who will not receive the marke of the beast, are like to be wrapped in, in these three wofull Kingdomes! And not here only, but they are like to attempt the same in all the Reformed Churches in *Europe*. Your own thoughts can easily suggest unto you, with what rage the beast which came out of the bottomlesse pit, the woman who hath thus long drunk the blood of the Saints, is filled now before her utter destruction, against that Virgin Company that follow the Lamb.

The Church and Kingdome of *Scotland*, have been willing and readie by all good means to quench this unnaturall fire. They have sent their humble Supplications, Remonstrances, and Declarations to his Majesty: And at last made offer of their humable Mediation, and Nationall intercession, for a Pacification. All which being refused & rejected, they have entered into a mutuall League and Covenant with the Church and Kingdome of *England*; and have resolved to joyne in Armes with their Brethren for their assistance and deliverance, for the preservation of their own Religion, and of themselves from the mercilesse cruelty of the common enemy, and ( so farre as in them lyeth ) for the safety of their native King, and his Kingdomes from destruction and desolation, ( as is more largely expressed in their publick Declaration, and in the Solemne League and Covenant of the three Kingdomes, which will give full satisfaction to all the wise and well-affected concerning their intentions. ) They have



have also, according to the desire of the honourable Houses of Parliament, sent us their Commissioners hither, for uniformity of Religion in the Churches of both Kingdoms. And we (their Commissioners) do exceedingly rejoyce to behold the foundation of the House of God, not only in doctrine, but Church-government, laid before our eyes in a reverend Assembly of so wise, learned, and godly Divines. And find ourselves bound in all Christian duty, but especially by the late Solemne League and Covenant of both Kingdoms, wherein we are so deeply interested and ingaged, to joine in representing to the reformed Churches abroad, the true condition of affaires here, against all mis-informations and mistakings.

And now (deare Brethren) in this extreame danger threatening us all, what are the things we can beg of you? But that first you vwould judge aright of our afflicted condition, of our innocency; and integrity in this our just defence. If our enemies every where calumniate us, that we be risen up in rebellion against our Sovereigne to deprive him of his just power and greatnesse, and endeavour to bring Anarchy and confusion into the Church of Christ; from these foule and falle asperations, our intentions fully and clearly set forth in our soleme League and Covenant (the copy whereof we here withall humbly present you) we doubt not will sufficiently cleare us. But if these children of *Beliall* have unjustly stirred up our Sovereigne against us, and by abusing his Majesties name and Authority, are labouring to keepe themselves from deserved punishment of their former crimes, which the supreme Judicatories of the Kingdom went about to inflict upon them, and to deprive us of our lives, Liberties, Privileiges, and especially of our Religion; And that our defensive Arms are by us used and intended only to preserve our selves from their unjust violence: (which hath often

been the condition of many of your selves ) Let the righteous Lord judge between us and them; whom we implore to helpe us no further then we can plead these things in sincerity before him: And let our deare Brethren to whom these Letters are addressed, acquite our innocency in their hearts, and make their Apologie for us in all their Churches.

Secondly, that yee will sympathize with us as brethren, who suffer in, and for the same cause, wherein your selves have beene oppressed, which will be a little refreshing to our morning spirits, when we shall know that our God who smites us, yet inclines the hearts of his beloved Churches to looke upon us with compassionate bowells, as judging us to be the servants of their own God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, and as remembering themselves to be in the body.

Thirdly and lastly, That as all the Amichristian faction ownes the cause of our Adversaries as their own, and contributes what lyes in their power every way to their helpe, and our ruine: So that you would imbrace our condition, as your own common cause, wherein if we be once swallowed up, your selves are not like long to escape; the quarrell of the enemy being not so much against the persons of men, as against the power of Godlinesse, and Purity of Gods word whereever it is professed, The way and maner of your owning us, we leave wholly to your selves: Except this one particular, which we must importunately crave, even your fervent prayers, both publicke and private. That God who heareth prayer, now he hath humbled us and broken all our Armes of Flesh (whereon alas we have been too prone to leane) would himselfe bring salvation to us, that the blessings of truth and peace might rest upon us that these three Nations may be joyned as one stick in the hand of the Lord and that we our selves, contemptible builders, called to repaire the House of God in a troublesome time, beeing ashamed

shamed of our former pollutions, may see the paterne of this House, and commend such a platform to our *Zorobabels*, as may be most agreeing to his own sacred word, nearest conformity to the best Reformed Churches, and greatest uniformity amongst our selves, that all mountains may become plaines before them and us, that then all who now see the plummet in our hands, may also behold the Top stone set upon the head of the Lords house amongst us, and may help us with shouting to cry, Grace, Grace unto it.

And thus much we have beene willed to Informe you of, *Reverend Brethren*, (and by you all faithfull Christians under your Charges,) by the Honourable House of Commons: In whose name and in our own we bid you heartily farewell *in the Lord*.

*Your most affectionately devoted  
Brethren in Christ.*

*Jo. Maitland,  
A. Johnston,  
Alex. Henderson,  
Sam. Rutherford,  
Rob. Bailie.  
Geo. Gillespie.*

*Comissioners  
of the Church  
of Scotland.*

*William Twisse, Prolocutor,*

*Cornel. Burges, Assessor,  
Jo. white, Assessor.*

*Henry Robrough, Scribe,  
Adoniram Byfield: Scribe,*

THE



# THE SEVERALL INSCRIPTIONS

To the Reformed CHURCHES.

*Zealand.*

**T**O the Reverend and Learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes, and Churches of the province of Zealand, our much Honoured Brethren.

*Holland*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes, and Churches of the Province of Holland, our much Honoured Brethren.

*East-Holland*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of East-Holland, our much Honoured Brethren.

*Gerderland.*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of the Province of Gelderland, our much honoured Brethren.

*Over Ysell,*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of the province of Over Ysell, our much honoured Brethren.

*Utrecht.*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of the province of Utrecht, our much Honoured Brethren.

*Frizeland.*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of the province of Frizeland, our much honoured Brethren.

*Groningin.*

To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of the Province and City of Groningen, our much honoured Brethren.

*Geneva.*

Geneva.

*- To the Reverend and learned Pastors & Elders of the Church in the City and Republick of Geneva, our much honoured Brethren.*

Berne.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Churches of Berne, our much honoured Brethren.*

Zurich.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Churches of Zurich, our much honoured Brethren.*

Bazell.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Churches of Bazell, our much honoured Brethren.*

Schafhausen.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and elders of the Churches of Schafhausen, our much honoured Brethren.*

Paris.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Church which is at Paris, our much honoured Brethren.*

Hessen.

*To the Reverend and learned pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of Hessen, our much honoured Brethren.*

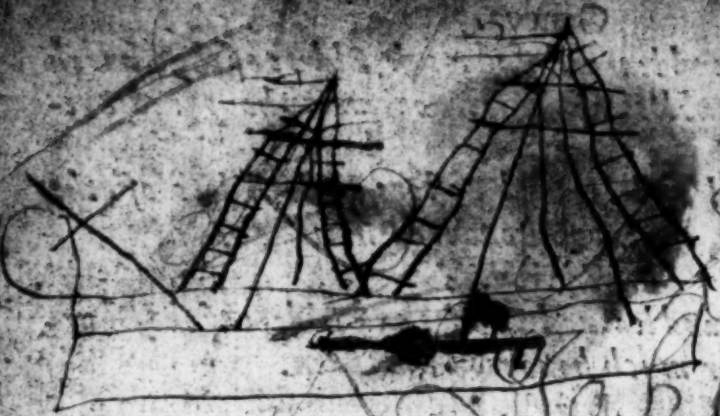
Anhalt.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Classes and Churches of Anhalt, our much honoured Brethren*

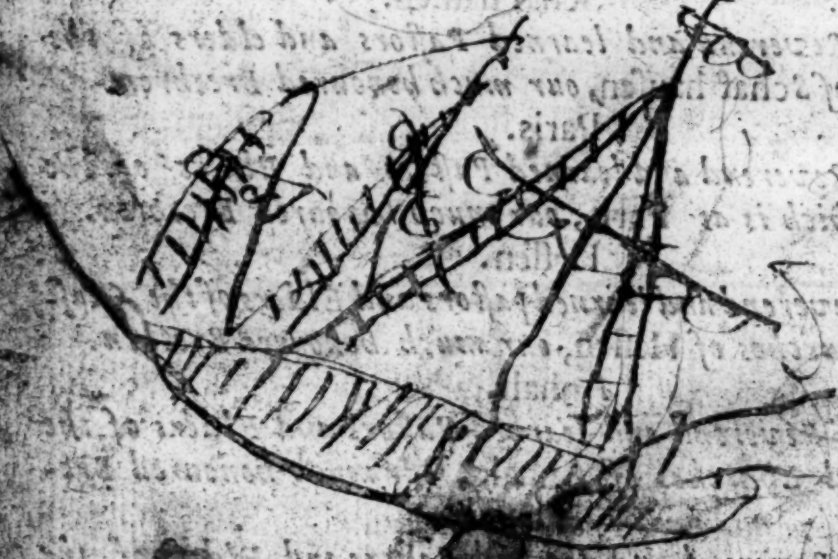
Hanaw.

*To the Reverend and learned Pastors and Elders of the Churches of Hanaw, our much honoured Brethren.*

F I N I S.



John van Sol-  
brat Book 2



The Goddard



